

# 1946-1960s

## Early Years



**1969-1971 OFFICERS**  
Front row (left to right): Richard Brubaker, Valerie Platt, Joseph Burnett, Dennis Platt, Ned Wheeler. Back row, Robert Bonnell, Lloyd Perkins, David Mortensen, Robert Sanderson. Absent: George Laramie and Gene Stewart.

### UAD Officers

## 1962: Establishing an Office

Driven by the inaccessibility of services and the need for the State of Utah to improve its services, these early leaders established an office to serve deaf people.



**Dr. Robert G. Sanderson**



**Eugene W. Petersen**



**G. Leon Curtis**

## 1963: Addressing Barriers

The Community Services Council (now known as the United Way) reported several barriers for deaf adults trying to receive services including:

- Communication barriers with family, friends and professionals
- Limited freedom of communication in counseling services
- Lack of skills working with those who are deaf
- Communication barriers at social activities



### Beth Ann Campbell

**Program Specialist for the Community Center in Bountiful**

Campbell became the first American Sign Language interpreter in Utah to be nationally certified, and interpreted the local nightly news on TV. She also interpreted for Dr. Sanderson and W. David Mortensen as they lobbied the legislature.



## 1965: Successful Lobbying



At the Utah State Legislature session, the appropriation for services for the deaf was eliminated. Utah Association of the Deaf President G. Leon Curtis and his officers campaigned intensively to successfully reinstate funding.



## Additional Milestones:

- 1958:** U.S. Congress created the Captioned Films for the Deaf
- 1965:** Rehabilitation Services Administration removed economic need as a federal requirement for vocational rehabilitation services
- 1965:** Services for Deaf Adults in Utah was created
- 1968:** Utah Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (now known as UTRID) was founded

## 1966: Increased Workload

In previous years, the Utah Division of Rehabilitation served an average of 11 clients who were deaf or hard of hearing. With Dr. Sanderson's skill, caseloads increased to 94 clients by bridging communication barriers.

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."**

**—Margaret Mead**



# 1970-1980s

## New Beginnings

### 1973: Rehabilitation Act

#### SECTION 504

Civil rights extended to people with disabilities and provided opportunities in education, employment and various settings, which allowed programs to receive federal funding, including deaf programs.



### 1977-1981: Overcoming Funding Barriers

**1977:** A bill made it through legislative committees, but accidentally stated “blind” instead of “deaf” and was unable to be fixed in time.

**1980:** The Utah State Board of Education reserved \$2.5 million for the new center, but didn’t make it high enough on the priority list.

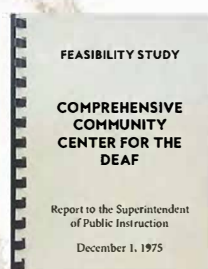
**1981:** The legislature prioritized the need of a dairy barn at Utah State University over the proposed community center for the Deaf.

### 1982: Funding Success

During the 1982 legislative session, a bill under the State Building Board that included a center for the deaf was passed for \$200,000, which was used to buy the Bountiful building.

### 1975: Feasibility Study for Community Center

A 47-page report shared the feasibility of providing a community center for those who are deaf in Utah. Governor Calvin L. Rampton also wrote a letter supporting the center.



**Governor Rampton**

### 1983: New Community Center Opens

The Utah Community Center for the Deaf officially opened at 388 North 400 South in Bountiful. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on June 9, 1983 with deaf community members. Dr. Sanderson was named the first director.



### 1988: Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

A bill was passed to set up a Division of Services for the Hearing Impaired. Deaf advocates, led by W. Dave Mortensen, changed the name to Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



**W. Dave Mortensen**  
President, Utah Association of the Deaf for 22 years

Mortensen’s first term in 1971–1985 was essential in creating the community center. He shared the message “to serve all deaf people, not just rehabilitation consumers.”



Utah Relay was created by a legislative bill in 1988 and signed by Governor Norman H. Bangert.

#### HARD OF HEARING



**1986:** Max Kennedy started the first chapter of Self Help for Hard of Hearing (SHHH), now called Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Meetings were held at the Bountiful building.





# 1990s

## A New Place of Our Own

### 1990: A New Building

During the legislative session, Governor Norman H. Bangerter recommended to support funds for a new building for the Utah Community Center for the Deaf. The legislature approved the budget for the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



### 1991: Groundbreaking Ceremony

A crowd of approximately 200 people was present at the groundbreaking ceremony of the new facility for the Utah Community Center for the Deaf in Taylorsville on June 10, 1991.

### 1992: Officially Opened

Those who are deaf and hard of hearing had a place of their own that was safe and accessible. During the first years of operation in the new facility, the center saw an increase of visitors and a high demand of its services and activities.



#### TTY:

*The TeleTYewriter (TTY) is a telecommunication device for the deaf.*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 mandated a nationwide system of telecommunications relay services to make the telephone network accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing or who have speech impairments.



**Gene Stewart**

**First Director of DSDHH**

Stewart led the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from 1989–1996 and also led efforts to create a new building.



**Rusty Wales**

**Second Director of DSDHH**

Wales led the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from 1996–2001 and also led efforts to build a new wing on the center.

### Additional Milestones:

**1990:** American with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law to prohibit discrimination of people with disabilities

**1994:** The Utah interpreter certification law passed setting the standard for high quality interpreters

**1994:** American Sign Language recognized as a foreign language and the Interpreter Training Program at Salt Lake Community College was established



### Thanks

to UAD for their continued advocacy through the years!



In 1990, the Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990 was passed. This law mandated that all televisions 13 inches or larger manufactured for sale in the United States contain caption decoders. Sixteen years later, the Federal Communications Commission ruled that all broadcast and cable television programs must include captioning with some exceptions.

### HARD OF HEARING



**1995:** Marilyn Call attended a training at Gallaudet University about developing Hard of Hearing programs.

**1996:** Programs provided for Hard of Hearing individuals following Sam Trychin's "Living with Hearing Loss" model.

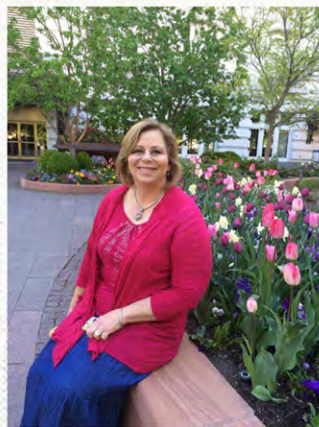




# 2000-2017

## Community

**"Yesterday is history.  
Tomorrow is a mystery. Today  
is a gift, that's why they call it  
the Present."  
—Eleanor Roosevelt**



### Marilyn Call

#### Third Director of DSDHH

Call led the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in 2001–2017. She was essential in renaming the building and lobbying for funding to expand services.

### 2001: New Wing

With Director Rusty Wales's efforts, a new wing was built onto the center. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new addition was held on May 4, 2001. The new wing added a lecture hall, large classroom, office and work area, storage and restrooms.



### 2003: Renaming the Building

On October 4, 2003, a renaming celebration was held in honor of Dr. Robert G. Sanderson, a leader in the Deaf community, with more than 1,000 people in attendance. The State Board of Education had unanimously supported renaming the community center after Dr. Sanderson.



### 2017: The Center Today

The center is currently known as the Robert G. Sanderson Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



### 25 year anniversary

A celebration was held on September 8, 2017.



### Additional Milestones:

**2005:** The Southern Utah Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing opens its doors in St. George

**2006:** ICAN (Interpreter Certification Advancement Network) established to expand the pool of interpreters

**2007:** Staff contributed many hours of services for the International Deaflympics

**2008:** First Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) is hired

**2017:** HB 60 was passed to replace the wording of "hearing impaired" to "deaf or hard of hearing" in all Utah law



### HARD OF HEARING



**2002:** The Popcorn Coalition meets for the first time with Ron Nelson and Kathy Evans. This group grew and was renamed Utah Communication Access Network — "Utah CAN." They worked to get captioning for public movies, Broadway plays, local news channels and sports stadiums.

**2008:** The Hard of Hearing Program begins at the St. George center.

**2013:** Rural Hard of Hearing Program begins.